

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1.** (canceled)

**2.** (canceled)

**3.** (canceled)

**4.** (canceled)

**5.** (canceled)

**6.** (canceled)

**7.** (canceled)

**8.** (canceled)

**9.** (canceled)

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**48.** (canceled)

**49.** (canceled)

**50.** (canceled)

**51.** (canceled)

**52.** (canceled)

**53.** (currently amended) A method for providing a plurality of high purity glass rods, comprising the steps of:

providing ~~a source of~~ one or more reactant materials;

separately reacting each of said reactant materials by separately heating each of

said reactant materials in the presence of oxygen contained in a flowing gas stream  
~~thereby providing to provide~~ one or more oxides of each of said one or more reactant  
materials, ~~said oxides forming as a finely dispersed powder;~~  
collecting said ~~oxide~~ oxides of each of said reactant materials as dispersed  
powders in a silica ampule, wherein the step of collecting includes collecting a  
predetermined quantity of said oxide powders by measuring an incremental weight  
gain of said silica ampule as said oxide powders are collected;  
melting said collected ~~powder~~ oxide powders and said silica ampule to form a  
substantially uniform glass boule; and  
drawing said boule into one or more glass rods.

54. (canceled)

55. (canceled)

56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said one or more reactant  
materials comprise ~~one or a combination of~~ reactant species selected from the list  
consisting of halide compounds, ~~and~~ chelated complexes, ~~and~~ combinations thereof.

58. (currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein said halide compounds ~~and~~  
~~chelated complexes comprise materials~~ are comprised of elements selected from the list  
consisting of boron, aluminum, silicon, phosphorous, sulfur, germanium, selenium,  
tellurium, iron, zinc, zirconium, titanium, ~~or~~ and any of the lanthanide rare earth  
elements.

59. (withdrawn) A high purity glass rod made by the method, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of finely dispersed oxide powders by heating one or more reactant materials in the presence of oxygen;

collecting said oxide powders in a clean silica ampule such that said powders are not contaminated by handling;

heating said collected powders and said silica ampule in order to melt said powders and said silica ampule to form a ductile glass boule; and

drawing said ductile glass boule into one or more glass rods.

60. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said chelated complexes are comprised of elements selected from the list consisting of boron, aluminum, silicon, phosphorous, sulfur, germanium, selenium, tellurium, iron, zinc, zirconium, titanium, and any of the lanthanide rare earth elements.